was brought forward in the Leeds town council lately to the effect, "That the council do erect a suitable town-hall, and that a premium of 100*l.* be given for the best design, on the understanding that the cost shall not exceed 20,000*l.*" It seemed to be thought desirable, however, that the burgesses should be afforded an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the question at the elections in November next, and the motion was postponed. Mr. Ald. Bower said he thought that Mr. Edilison wanted 10,000*l.* for ornament. He (Mr. Bower), on the contrary, would have a good plain building, for use and not for show, and he thought that 10,000*l.* would be sufficient to provide such a building.——The Houghton-le-Spring Catholic Church has been re-opened, after having been additionally decorated.——The "Tate Testimonial" Free Grammar School at Richmond, in Yorkshire, Mr. Andrews, of York, architect, was formally opened on the 27th ult.

ENLIGHTENMENT ON GAS LIGHTING.

The price of gas at Gosport has been reduced to 6s. 6d. the 1,000 cubic feet, with the privilege of using meters belonging to the company on payment of 6d. additional.—the crude beginnings of a system which will yet be generally adopted in promoting the domestic use of gas, and that at a very small per centage on a much more moderate price.——The Winchester Company have reduced their price to 7s., in the expressed hope of realizing such an increase of consumption as will yield them 5 per cent. profit, when they will further reduce the price.——The directors of the Ampthill Gas and Coke Company, in a recent report, "impress upon the shareholders the expediency of reducing the price of gas from 10s. per 1,000 cubic feet to 7s. 6d., feeling convinced that the increased consumption will more than compensate for the reduction in price. They also suggest that a per centage should be allowed to large consumers in addition."——"The Bury company," says the *Manchester Spectator*, "have decided to make a reduction in the price charged for gas. Some time ago, the price to parties whose annual gas rent was under 20*l.*, was 7s. per 1,000 feet. A gas consumers' association was formed, and shortly after the price was reduced to 6s. 3d. A further reduction of 9d. has been decided on; so that, in future, the charge will be only 5s. 6d. to rents under 30*l.* Those whose rent is 160*l.* will be charged 4s. 8d. only." A stupid system of charges with discounts running up to 30 per cent. on the nominal price, prevailed at Bury, as elsewhere, and repeatedly exposed by us: a change is now to be made in respect to discounts.——The Manager of the Salford Gas Works, which belong to the town, says of these works, in his last report,—"It affords me great satisfaction to be able to report from year to year the increasing value of this establishment, as a source of profit to the corporation. During the last eight years the demand for gas has been steadily on the increase, and the rental has advanced from the sum of 9,470*l.* 16s. 6d. to 14,463*l.* 15s. 11½d., or equal to about 53 per cent., while the scale of charges to consumers has been reduced three times (in all from 8s. to 5s. and 4s. 6d.) For the year ending June 30th, 1850, as compared with the year preceding, the increase in production is 10,564,500 cubic feet, and the increase in rental 364*l.* 7s. 10½d., with a reduction of 1s. per 1,000 cubic feet. There is every prospect of a further increase in consumption of gas during the approaching winter." But so has it ever been, that a steady process of reduction in price has uniformly been accompanied by a more and more flourishing exchequer. The public are thus substantially grateful even for small mercies.——The *Morning Post* reports the results of recent experiments at Vauxhall-gardens, by the Count de Hombres, in the manufacture of gas from water on the principle of Mr. Gillard's invention, which consists in the decomposition of water, by passing a jet of steam over a bed of incandescent charcoal in a retort, the gaseous products of which are hydrogen and carbonic acid gas. The latter being separated by the action of quicklime in a purifier, the hydrogen, in a state of comparative purity, is inducted to a gas-holder for use, to which end, as regards the lighting, the inventor has had recourse to the same experiment by which the intense light used in the oxyhydrogen microscopes is obtained. Pure hydrogen alone, with an unsteady flame, emits great heat. For lighting, Mr. Gillard has invented an apparatus of platinum wire, fitted to the burner, by which the flame is converted into a column of intensely white light; and, with a brass chimney, a steady light is produced, without smell or smoke. The experiments made at Vauxhall, under disadvantageous circumstances, are reported to have been completely successful. The invention, it is said, has been in action for a considerable time in Manchester, and has given universal satisfaction. Count de Hombres stated with confidence that gas could be manufactured *at fourpence the thousand cubic feet!* and that the cost of the platinum would make but a very inconsiderable addition to the charge, as its waste under such circumstances, if any, is so extremely slow that apparatus five years in use at Paris remains apparently perfect as put up.——Mr. H. Carter, Thirza-place, Old Kent-road, has patented some alleged improvements in burners, consisting of more than one ring or sheet of flame, combined with a suitable chimney or chimneys, and supplied with atmospheric air, particularly adapted to ventilation." Concentric gas-burners have hitherto, he says, been generally constructed without due regard for the admission of that quantity of air only between the rings of flame which is requisite to ensure perfect combustion of the gas. The patentee also claims a mode of illuminating by cut-glass chandeliers enveloping and surrounding jets of flame, and a mode of ventilating apartments by means of gas burners.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.

An improvement in electro-chemical telegraphs has been recently patented in America by Messrs. Westbrook and Rogers, who claim "the recording of telegraphic signs on the surface of a revolving *metallic* cylinder, plate, or other equivalent surface, by means of an acidulated liquid or saline solution, or water, held between the point of the wire conductor, and the metallic recording surface, by means of a non-conducting porous substance contained in a glass, or other non-conducting reservoir, in which the recording fluid is contained, by which the use of every description of paper is dispensed with, thereby saving great expense in telegraphing."——Another American patent of a Mr. G. H. Horn claims a "new or improved electro-caustic telegraph, or application, to telegraphic purposes, of heat generated by electric apparatus, or a current or currents of electricity passed through a fine platinum wire, or other proper conductors or equivalents therefor, the marks produced in or through the paper, or other material used in connection with the heated wire, being regulated in their length and number, so as to be characters or expressions of letters, figures, or words."——The first general meeting of the proprietors of the Anglo-French Company for carrying out submarine telegraphic communication between this country and the continent, was held on Tuesday week at Paris, Sir James Carmichael in the chair. The report stated that printed communications, the original slips of which were now in the possession of the President of the Republic, had been telegraphed between coast and coast on 28th ult. thus securing the concession of the undertaking. The wire was purely for an experimental purpose. The directors had since opened negociations with parties in Paris and London, having in view the complete formation of the company with a capital of 50,000*l.* Mr. C. J. Wollaston, C.E. produced specimens of the proposed permanent wire, which he stated would be of sufficient strength to resist almost any species of oceanic accident, whether from rocks, drifts, anchorage, or otherwise. Mr. F. Edwards, one of the directors, also alluded to the privileges the company enjoyed under the concession of exclusive telegraphic communication between France and England for ten years. Resolutions were passed adopting the report. Experiments are being made at Dover with the new cable, in which there will be four wires. The cables, 4 or 5 inches thick, of gutta percha enclosed in wire rope, all chemically prepared, will cost 40,000*l.* Patents are secured for England, France, and Belgium. There will be two of these cables, each 20 miles long, and 3 miles apart, the whole weight representing 400 tons; and it is expected, that when chained down at the bottom of the sea, they will resist the anchor of a 120-gun ship. The whole of the permanent wires and works will be completed by May next, when it is proposed that H.R.H. Prince Albert and the Duke of Wellington shall open the communication on this side the Channel, and the President of the Republic on the other.——Within the last four months, no less than 1,000 miles of telegraph have been opened in the Austrian empire, making the total mileage about 2,000 miles, of which about one-quarter has the wires laid underground. Another 1,000 miles will be ready by next year. The telegraph now works from Cracow to Trieste, 700 miles. On 1st instant, the new telegraph union between Austria, Prussia, Saxony, and Bavaria came into operation, under a uniform tariff one-half the former charges.——Negociations are being entered into with the Government authorities, it is said, for the establishment of the projected sub-marine telegraph across St. George's Channel. Preliminary surveys have been made, and the way is said to be comparatively free from rocks and shoals. Notice of intention to apply to Parliament next session for authorisation to lay down the line will be given. At present two telegraphic routes are proposed; the one of 64 miles across the channel, from Holyhead to Kingston and Dublin, and thence by the Great Southern and Western Railway on to Cork and Galway—the other from St. David's Head, on the Welsh coast, and on to Wexford, Waterford, and the extreme western points of Ireland to Berehaven and Crookhaven, the latter being the last points touched at by vessels outward-bound for the Atlantic.——Telegraphic communication is to be established between Dublin and Galway, the Midland Great Western Railway Company having ordered their engineer to lay down the wires to anticipate the laying down of the intended telegraph across the channel, thereby connecting London with Galway.

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING NOTES, IN IRELAND.

Additions are being made to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter, at Phibsborough, county Dublin, under Mr. Bourke, architect: they consist of an extension of the present nave 19 feet, and the addition of an entirely new front 43 feet in width. In the centre is a tower 10 feet square inside, with walls 3 feet 9 inches thick: at the angles on the front and side of the tower, parallel with the face of the wall, are buttresses 4 feet wide, and 55 feet 9 inches high, surmounted by pinnacles. The upper length of buttresses have panels, and are chamfered on the arrises: wings at each side of the tower, to have castellated parapets, are about 12 feet 6 inches wide, and have buttresses at the angles, similar in character to those of tower, but are only to be carried to a height of 41 feet, and surmounted by pinnacles. Total height to top of castellated parapet of tower, from ground line, 79 feet; to top of spire, 133 feet 6 inches; windows 2 feet wide by 8 feet high, in sides of tower on principal story. All the new walls are being constructed of broken joint ashlar; the dressings of punched and drafted work. The style is Gothic. Total cost, 2,000*l.* Mr. James Donnelly, builder.

The Commissioners of Public Works have advertised for proposals for erecting a new bridge at Drumgoolestown, county Louth.

The piers for the metal bridge across Lough Athalia, on the Midland Great Western Railway, are almost completed. Mr. George W. Hemans is the engineer to the company.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are about rebuilding the church of St. John, Limerick, according to plans by their architect, and have advertised for tenders for same.

A new Roman Catholic Church is being erected at Hilltown, parish of Clonuffe, and is to be consecrated on the 6th of October.

Mr. Dargan, the railway contractor, has

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